

STAR WARS



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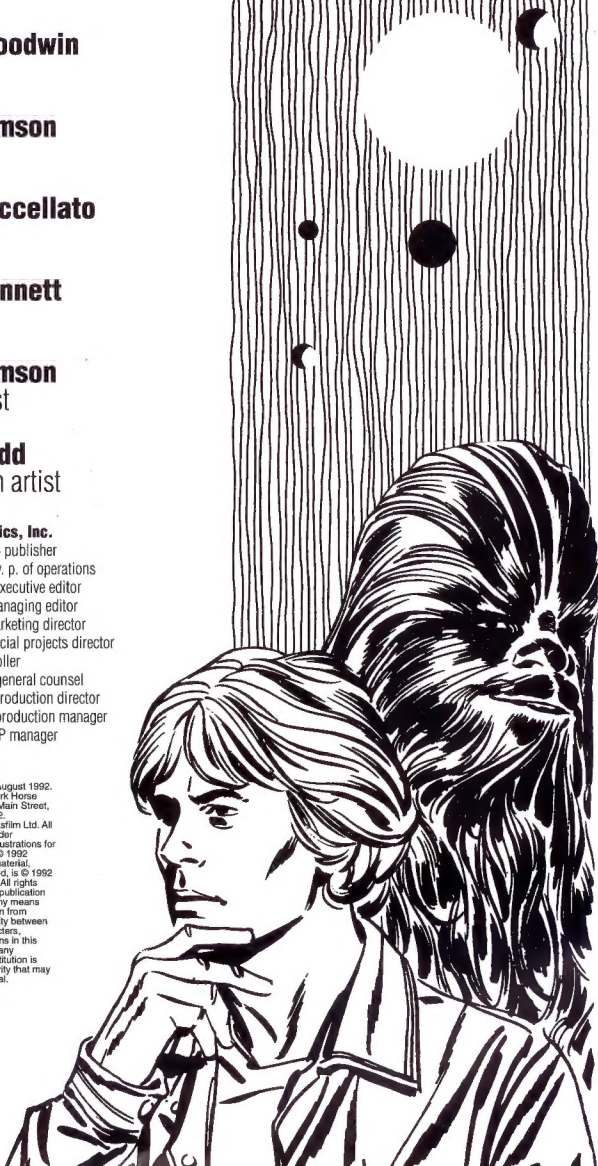
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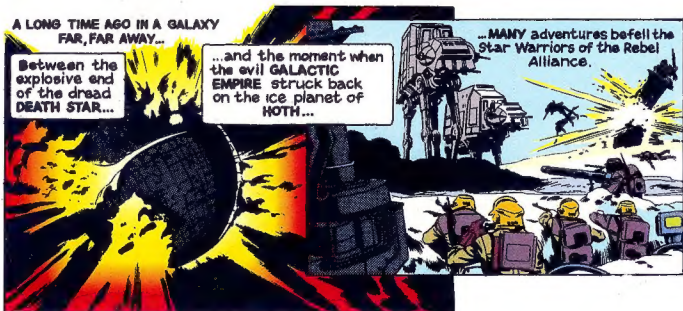


A LONG TIME AGO IN A GALAXY
FAR, FAR AWAY...

Between the
explosive end
of the dread
DEATH STAR...

...and the moment when
the evil GALACTIC
EMPIRE struck back
on the ice planet of
HOTH...

...MANY adventures befell the
Star Warriors of the Rebel
Alliance.



This is ONE of them...

LEIA...?
PRINCESS,
WHERE ARE
YOU?!



LEIA,
CAN YOU HEAR
ME...? WHERE
ARE YOU?!



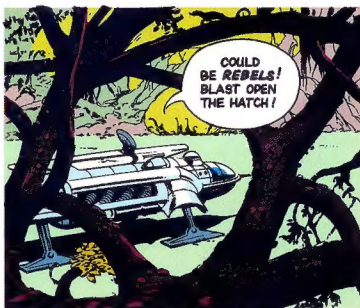
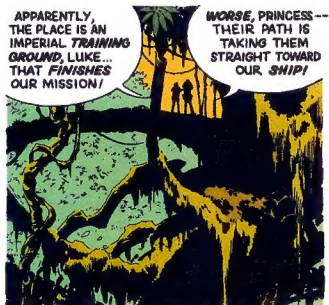
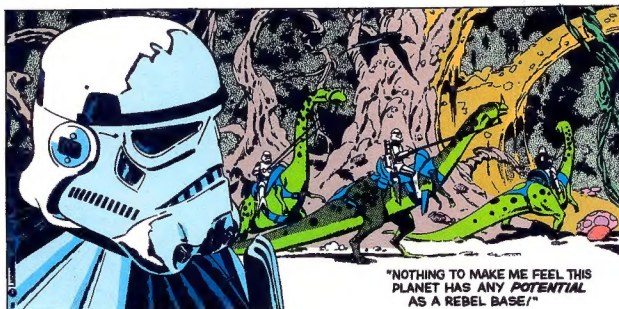
BLAST IT!
OUR MISSION
IS TO SCOUT
NEW LOCATIONS
FOR A MAIN
BASE...

...BUT WHY
DID WE HAVE
TO SPLIT UP
TO DO IT?



TO GIVE US *TWICE* AS MUCH CHANCE
AT DISCOVERING THIS TROPICAL
PARADISE'S DRAWBACKS, HERO.
COME TAKE A
LOOK... *FAST!*





EMPTY! BUT WHOEVER
WAS IN HERE CAN'T HAVE
GONE FAR ON FOOT...
ALERT OUR MAIN
CAMP!



LUKE! CAN
YOU SEE
ANYTHING?

THE STORMTROOPERS HAVE
DISCOVERED WE AREN'T IN
THE *SHIP*, LEIA. THAT MEANS
SOMEONE'S SURE TO COME
SEARCHING FOR
US, SOON!



"BUT FIRST, IT LOOKS
LIKE-- OH, NO!"



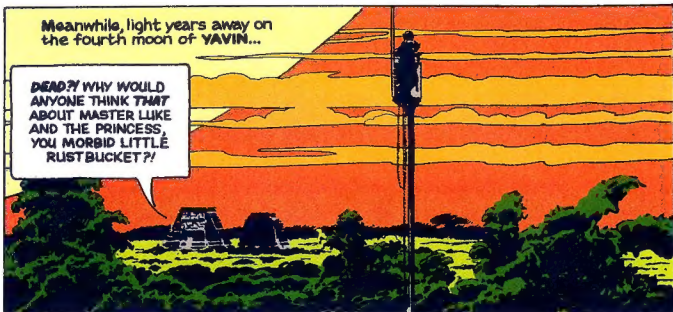
"THEY'RE READINGY PROTON GRENADES!
THEY'RE GOING TO *DESTROY* OUR
TRANSPORTATION OFF THIS PLACE!"





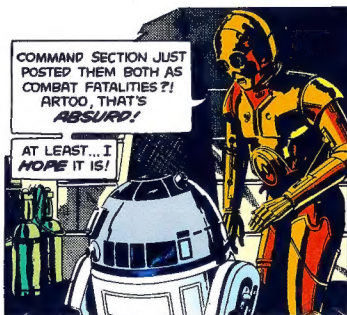
Meanwhile, light years away on
the fourth moon of YAVIN...

DEAD?! WHY WOULD
ANYONE THINK THAT
ABOUT MASTER LUKE
AND THE PRINCESS,
YOU MORBID LITTLE
RUSTBUCKET?!

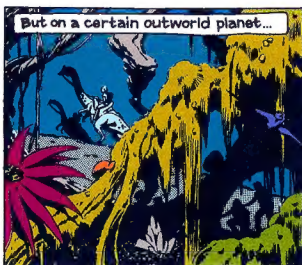


COMMAND SECTION JUST
POSTED THEM BOTH AS
COMBAT FATALITIES?!
ARTOO, THAT'S
ABSURD!

AT LEAST... I
HOPE IT IS!



But on a certain outworld planet...



...it's much **TOO CLOSE** to the truth for
two fugitives from Imperial stormtroopers!

THAT PATROL'S
PAST. WE'RE
SAFE FOR THE
MOMENT,
LEIA.

THEY KNOW
WE'RE **SOMEWHERE**.
LUKE-- THEY'LL
KEEP SWEEPING
THE AREA UNTIL
THEIR SCANNERS
PINPOINT US!



WE'LL KEEP MOVING! WHEN REBEL
HQ DOESN'T RECEIVE OUR CHECK-IN
TRANSMISSION, THEY'LL **KNOW**
SOMETHING'S WRONG
AND SEND HELP.

I DON'T
THINK SO...

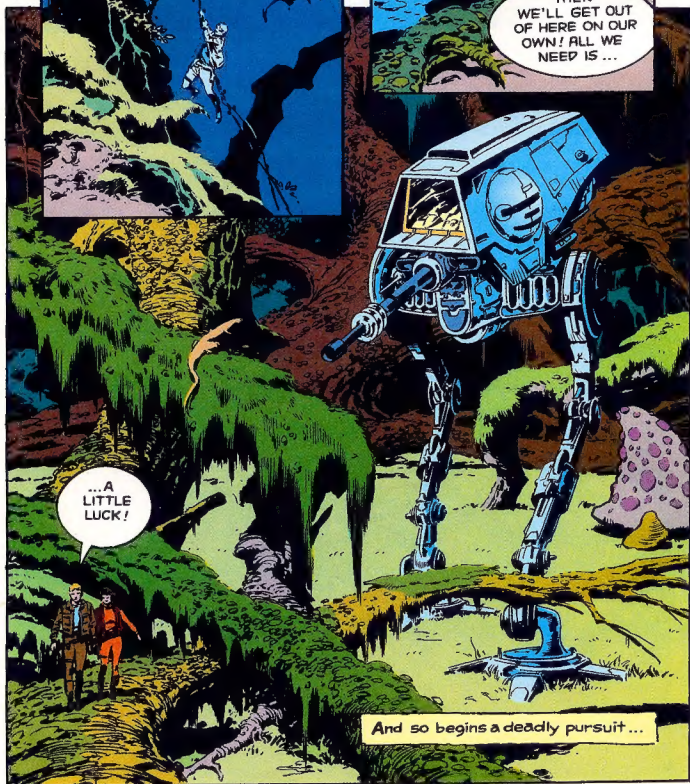




IF WE LOSE ONE, ANOTHER CAN'T BE WASTED. THOSE ARE *MY* ORDERS.

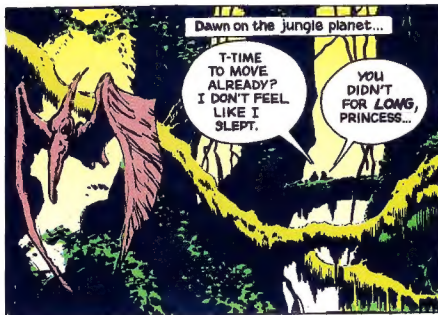
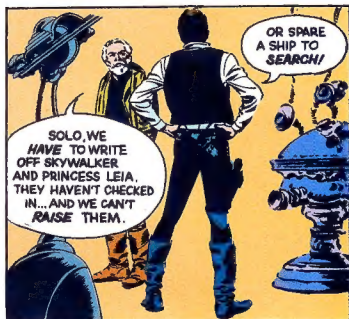
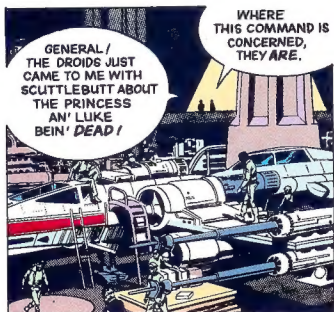


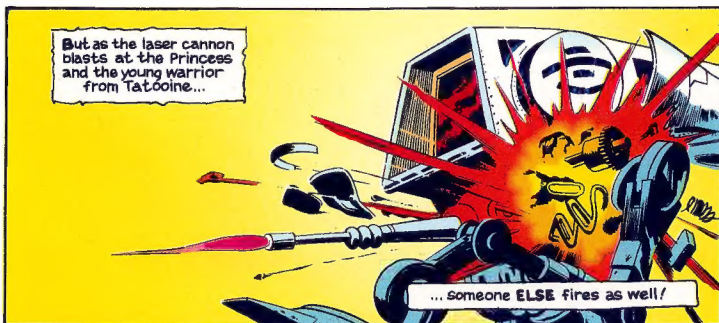
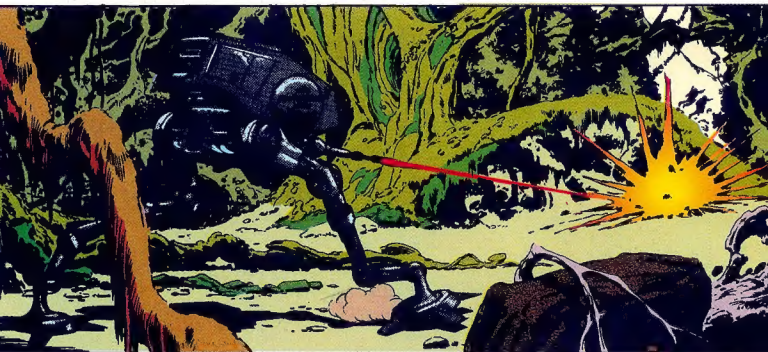
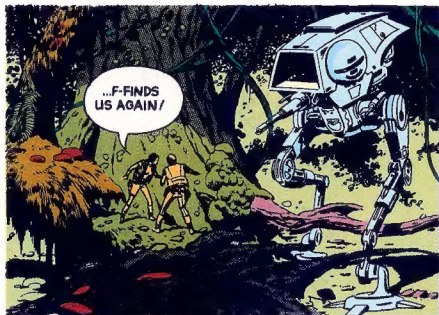
THEN WE'LL GET OUT OF HERE ON OUR OWN! ALL WE NEED IS ...

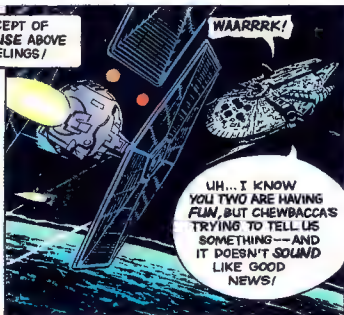


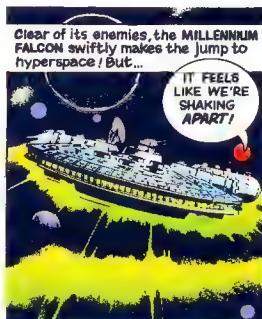
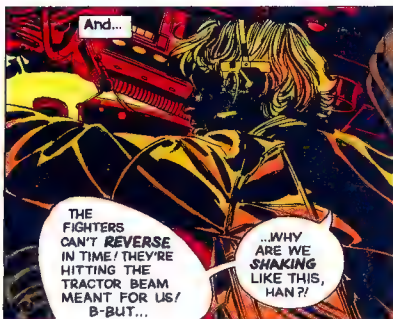
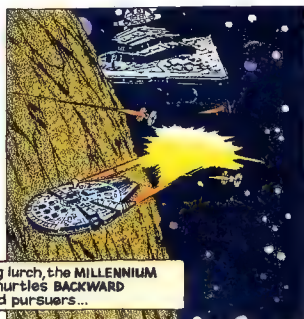
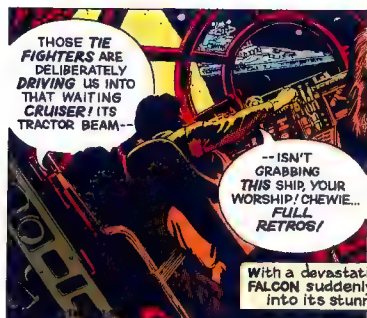
...A LITTLE LUCK!

And so begins a deadly pursuit ...









YOU CAN'T GO FROM FULL **FORWARD** TO FULL **REVERSE** LIKE WE DID AND NOT EXPECT SOME **DAMAGE**, PRINCESS, BUT DON'T WORRY...

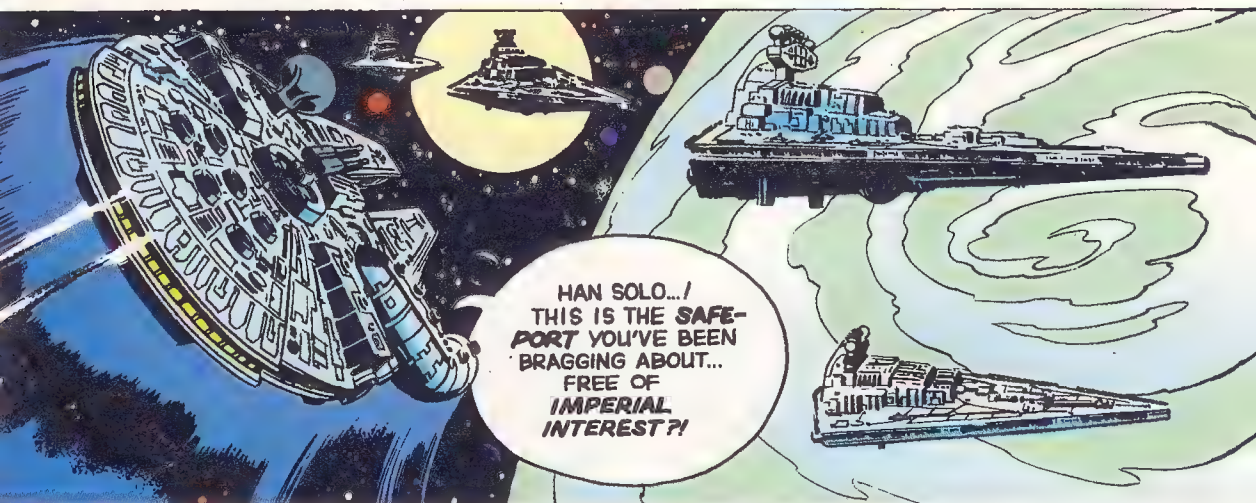
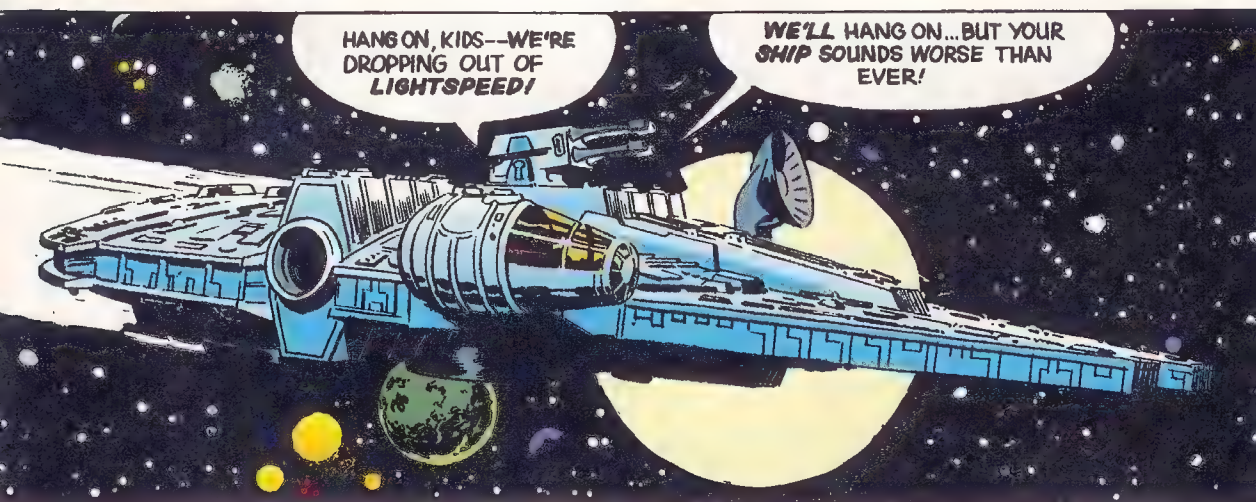


"...WE'RE CLOSE TO A **PERFECT SPOT** FOR REPAIRS. GREAT LITTLE PLANET, FREE OF IMPERIAL INTEREST—ORD MANTELL!"

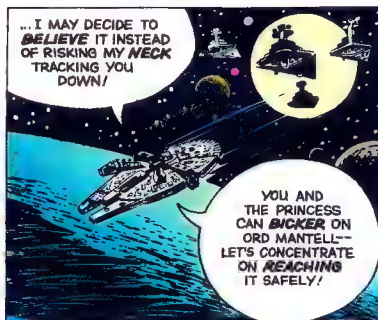
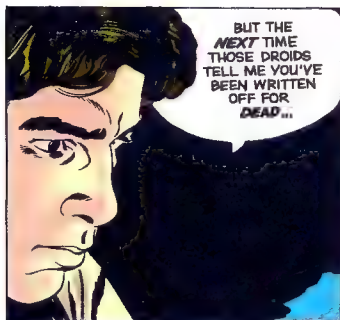
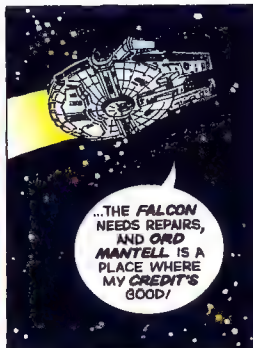
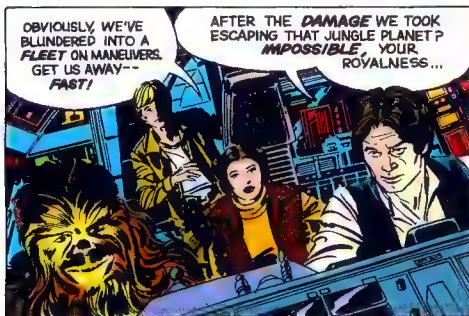


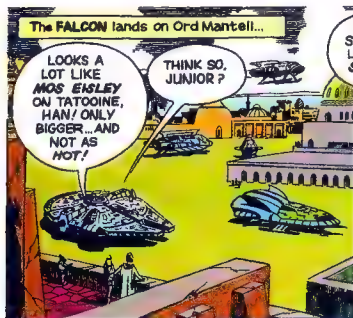
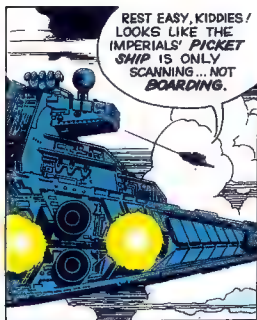
HANG ON, KIDS--WE'RE DROPPING OUT OF **LIGHTSPEED**!

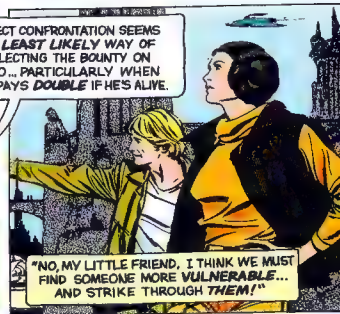
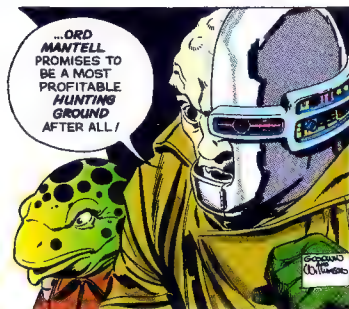
WE'LL HANG ON...BUT YOUR **SHIP** SOUNDS WORSE THAN EVER!



HAN SOLO...! THIS IS THE **SAFE-PORT** YOU'VE BEEN BRAGGING ABOUT... FREE OF **IMPERIAL INTEREST** ?!

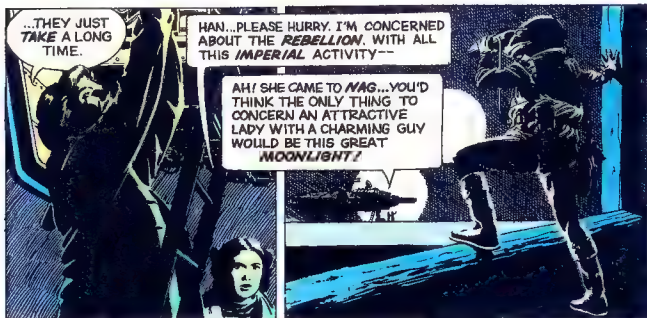
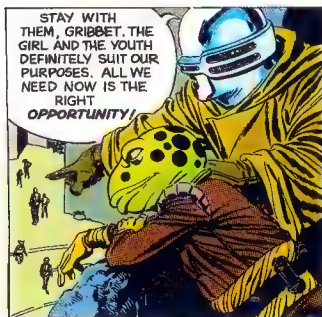
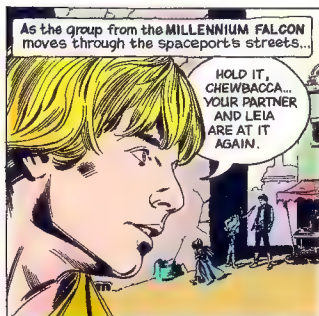


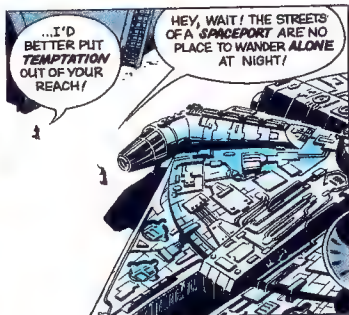
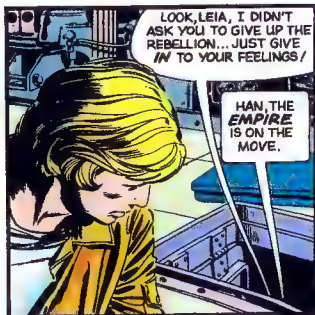












As the **MILLENNIUM FALCON's** captain starts after the angry Leia...

YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH, HAN!
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE PRINCESS!



WARRR-
ROWWK?



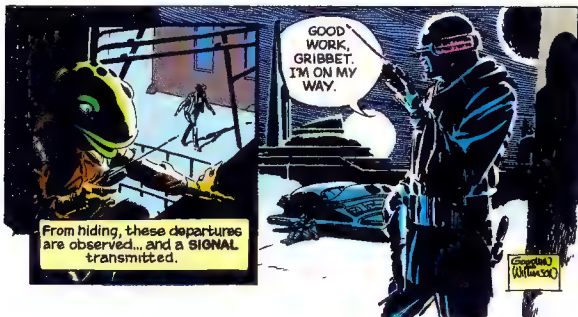
NAROWRRGH!

NO...WE'RE STAYIN' HERE!
IF HER ROYALNESS INSISTS
THAT THESE **REPAIRS** BE
FINISHED--THAT'S WHAT
SHE'LL GET! LET **LUKE**
CHASE AFTER HER!



GOOD
WORK,
GRIBBET.
I'M ON MY
WAY.

From hiding, these departures
are observed... and a **SIGNAL**
transmitted.

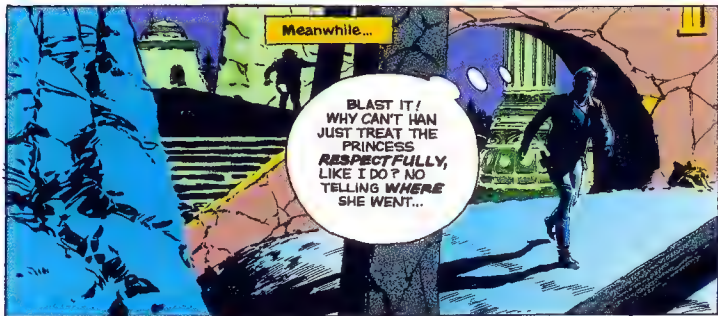




THESE
STREETS
SEEM MORE
TWISTING...
CONFUSING...
THAN EARLIER
TODAY!



AND YOU
NEVER *KNOW*
WHAT'S LURKING
AROUND THE
NEXT
CORNER!



Meanwhile...

BLAST IT!
WHY CAN'T HAN
JUST TREAT THE
PRINCESS
RESPECTFULLY,
LIKE I DO? NO
TELLING *WHERE*
SHE WENT...

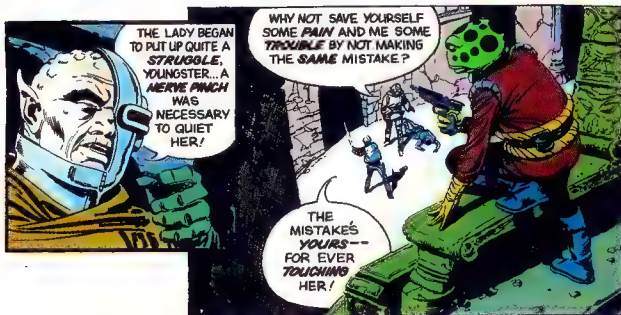
AW, LET'S **FACE** IT...
I WISH I HAD HIS
NERVE. I CAN NEVER
QUITE SEEM TO TELL
HER HOW
I **FEEL**,
OR--



A SCREAM shatters Luke's thoughts...



... and the **FAMILIARITY**
of the voice brings
him heedlessly
running!





BAD STRATEGY TO PLAY HERO AGAINST A **STRANGER** YOUNGSTER--YOU DON'T KNOW **WHAT** YOU'RE UP AGAINST.



ANYONE WHO'D ATTACK LEIA LIKE YOU DID CAN'T BE MUCH! I'LL TAKE MY **CHANCES!**

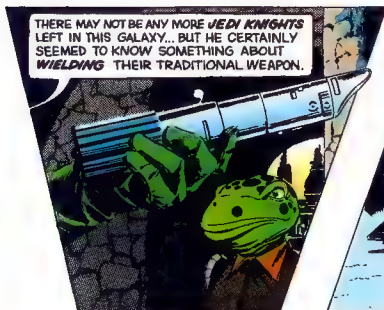
THAT'S YOUR BUSINESS...



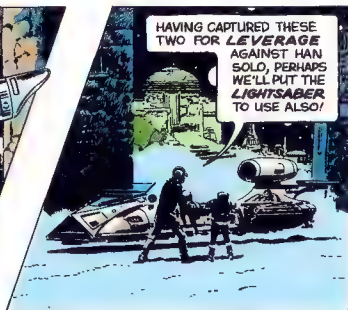
...MINE IS **BOUNTY HUNTING**, AND TAKING CHANCES IS SOMETHING I **NEVER** DO!



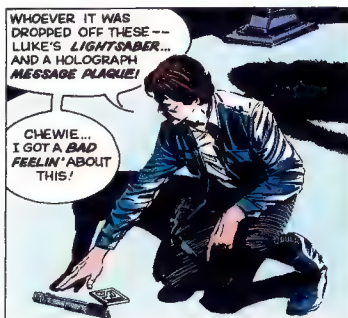
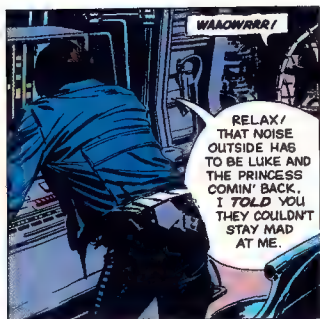
YOUR STUN-BLAST WAS PERFECTLY TIMED, GRIBBET. I MAY HAVE **UNDERESTIMATED** THAT YOUNG MAN.



THERE MAY NOT BE ANY MORE **JEDI KNIGHTS** LEFT IN THIS GALAXY... BUT HE CERTAINLY SEEMED TO KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT **WIELDING** THEIR TRADITIONAL WEAPON.



HAVING CAPTURED THESE TWO FOR **LEVERAGE** AGAINST HAN SOLD, PERHAPS WE'LL PUT THE **LIGHTSABER** TO USE ALSO!



I'M PREPARED TO EXCHANGE THEM FOR YOU, CORELLIAN, PROVIDED YOU SHOW UP IMMEDIATELY...

...WITHOUT WEAPONS, AND WITHOUT YOUR FORMIDABLE WOOKIEE FRIEND!

NAAROWILLF!

I WISH IT WAS JUST A BLUFF, CHEWIE! BUT THE FACT THAT HE SENT LUKE'S LIGHT-SABER MAKES IT PRETTY CONVINCING HE'S GOT THEM.

THIS GUY SKORR IS OBVIOUSLY CLEVER, FOR A BOUNTY HUNTER. WE'VE GOT TO BE MORE CLEVER, PAL...

"...WHILE APPEARING TO GO ALONG WITH HIM!"

What clever scheme do Han and Chewie have in mind? Will Skorr collect his bounty? Find out next month, in **CLASSIC STAR WARS # 2!**

STELLAR scribes

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Dear Dark Horse,

I really enjoyed the first issue of *Classic Star Wars*. I think that it transferred well to comic-book format. Although I never read the story as the original newspaper strip, I found no problems with this incarnation.

I felt that the art was done very well. One aspect of which I was especially fond was the excellent portrayal of size and proportion. For instance, the Imperial Walker on the front and on page six was not only rendered in itself very well, but I love the way it looms over the land. Speaking of which, the landscape was done quite well, too. One could really get a sense of the jungle-like region. I am interested to see it in color. The characters portrayed in this issue were depicted very nicely, too, and I was happy to see that many close-ups of characters from the movies themselves were drawn to closely resemble the actors. The only real exception seems to be a lack of picture continuity for Luke. Altogether, Mr. Williamson has quite a talent for both the natural and the mechanical, which really brought this story to life.

As for the story, I am definitely enjoying myself so far. I'm glad to see some action from between the movies. The plot has been clearly set up so as not to leave the reader with a sense of "what just happened?" that is often prevalent in comics. Although the story was occasionally overexplained, especially at the end, this is probably due to its origin as a newspaper strip, in which the

readers had to be kept informed in case they missed an installment.

So, as a whole, I definitely give *Classic Star Wars* my approval. The art is great, and the story is fast-paced and interesting. In your cover letter, you said that most of the story material was originally published as a newspaper strip in the early eighties. I am wondering, which material was not? And exactly how much time did pass between the destruction of the Death Star and the establishment on Hoth? Also, are there any plans for future *Star Wars* series from Dark Horse, with either new or reprint material? What about a series in black-and-white? Questions, questions, questions! Well, I don't want to overstay my welcome, so just keep the good stuff coming!

Matt Fagan
Coos Bay, OR

Answers, answers, answers! The majority of what you see in Classic Star Wars is reproduced from newspaper strips published between 1981 and 1984. We've rearranged the panels and taken out as much redundant material as possible so that the story isn't "overexplained" too often, and Al Williamson has extended and retouched some of the art to better fit comic-book proportions. This issue even contains an entirely new story page — any guesses as to which one?

More Star Wars titles are in the works, and we plan to publish a monthly, black-and-white

Star Wars strip in two-page installments in the Dark Horse Insider. Look for it starting in issue 15 of the Insider, which should be available at your local comics shop in February 1993. And watch this lettercol for further news on upcoming Star Wars projects as they develop!

Dear Dark Horse,

Many thanks for the preview copy of *Classic Star Wars* #1. It brought back fond memories of the first time I saw the original *Star Wars* film. I was seven years old in August of 1977 and watched the movie at a drive-in while munching home-popped popcorn with my mom. The biggest impact on my young brain? Darth Vader's spooky wheezing! That guy *still* gets to me.

Mr. Goodwin has captured that same sense of wonder in his *Classic Star Wars* tale. The dialogue is dead-on, and the pacing is perfect. Archie's Han is particularly fun.

Al Williamson, the most underappreciated artist in comics, has turned in another flawless set of illustrations. He has captured the images of the characters beautifully, while making them his own. And what terrific design work on those aliens and spacecraft! Great stuff. I can hardly wait to see Al's work in color.

To make a long review short: A+; first-rate entertainment. Keep the fun coming, folks.

Tony Midyett
South Fulton, TN

Thank you for the high marks, Tony! I vividly remember my first viewing of *Star Wars*, too — especially the mile-long ticket line my father and I had to stand in. I saw the film at least a dozen times that summer, and could quote most of the dialogue (and hum the entire soundtrack!) from memory. It was literally unlike anything I'd ever seen before, hard though that is to imagine amidst the almost continuous stream of science-fiction blockbusters being produced these days.

As long as we're getting all misty-eyed and nostalgic here, why don't the rest of you chime in with your favorite *Star Wars* memories? Send us your anecdotes, sketches, or whatever else you can dig up — we've got more than a dozen lettercols to fill up over the course of this series, so get busy!

Dear Anina,

When I first saw the movie *Star Wars*, I (and I'm sure everyone else) was blown away by the creatures, ships, scenery, etc., and this comic didn't take away this fascination! It was so good! The storyline seemed to be something that really could've happened in between the first two films. Also, I appreciated the way Al Williamson kept the faces of the characters looking somewhat the same as the stars in the films. The way Han always called Princess Leia names such as "Worshipness" or "Majesty" was preserved as well, but these sarcastic terms could be used less. After a while, they aren't so funny anymore.

Sending me this preview was an EXCELLENT choice! These films, along with *Alien*, *Aliens*, and *Alien³* are my fave flicks of all time! I hope to receive more previews for three reasons:

1. You are the awesomest

publishing company of all time!

2. The comics business seems to be a worthwhile, fun industry to be a part of, and somehow by reading the uncolored copy of a comic I feel a part of it.

3. I enjoy being one of the first to read your new book.

Gotta go to the comic store and get the *Aliens: Tribes* book before they close!

Chris van Bremen
La Crescenta, CA

If this were another publishing company, I'd probably feel obliged to put forth some self-serving hype at this point and congratulate you for being a True Believer™. But this is Dark Horse, and we like to do things with a bit more dignity around here. After all, comics are serious business! (And if you believe all that, I've got a prime piece of real estate in Florida to sell you!)

Your point about Han's dialogue is well taken, Chris; any repetition is mainly due to the nature of the original newspaper strips, but we'll see if we can't do a little more tinkering with the lettering to tone such things down. Let us know what you think as the series progresses.

Dear *Classic Star Wars*,

This new *Star Wars* comic is unbelievable! I have never seen any of the *Star Wars* comic strips, and I was thrilled to see something from such a long time ago. The graphics were excellent and so amazingly detailed that I felt like I was part of the action. The brand new cover was awesomely drawn, and I commend Al Williamson's meticulous work on revising and redrawing the comic strip.

Archie Goodwin's storyline is magnificent and well planned, and the comic was

filled with so much action that I found it hard to put down. Seeing the familiar faces of Han, Luke, Leia, and the rest brought a touch of excitement and nostalgia to my starving mind.

I enjoyed Archie and Al's adaptation of *The Empire Strikes Back*, but never realized they had done other *Star Wars* masterpieces. I am greatly satisfied with *Classic Star Wars* #1 and I am painfully waiting for more *Star Wars* comics. The preview copy was damn good, and I can't wait for the color version.

I enjoyed the whole *Star Wars* saga so much that it has inspired me to begin my writing career. This godlike comic has done nothing less than elevate my iron will and vise-like determination to write science-fiction novels. I can't begin to describe how much joy I experienced when seeing the first movie and how much I screamed at the climactic points.

I yearn to see another *Star Wars* movie on the screen; for the meantime, this great, stellar series will definitely fill the void left after *Return of the Jedi*.

Michael Jacka
Tacoma, WA

Wow! Can't ask for higher praise than that, can we? I'm glad you enjoyed the preview so much; be sure to write in and tell us how you like the rest of the series.

I'd love to close out my response to your letter with some kind of witticism, Michael, but between your starving mind, painful waiting, iron will, and screaming climaxes, I simply don't know where to start! So instead I think I'll just say... See y'all next month!

—Anina Bennett



DCP

PRESENTS A
SCAN BY

DARTH SCANNER

*Leeching leads to the Dark Side of the Force.
A good Jedi buys comics and supports the industry!*